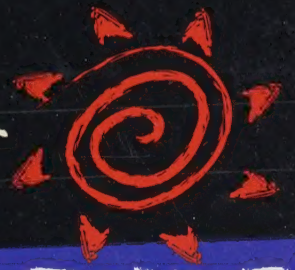


SCHOOL

at the



LEGISLATURE

Putting Life into Learning



Legislative
Assembly
of Alberta

Science


Social Studies

Physical Education

Language Arts

Art

Report Card 2004-05



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SCHOOL at the LEGISLATURE

Putting Life into Learning

Table of Contents

Speaker's Message	3
Program Objectives	5
Year in Review	9
Getting the Word Out	15
Dollars and Cents	19
Appendices	
A: Curriculum Connections ..	25
B: Evaluation Summary ...	28
C: Letters of Support	30

Speaker's Message

(A+)

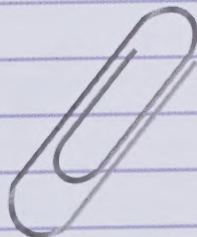
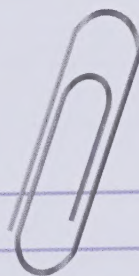
Last year, School-at-the-Legislature gave more than 750 students an intimate look at the inner workings of government and parliamentary traditions that have guided Assemblies for centuries.

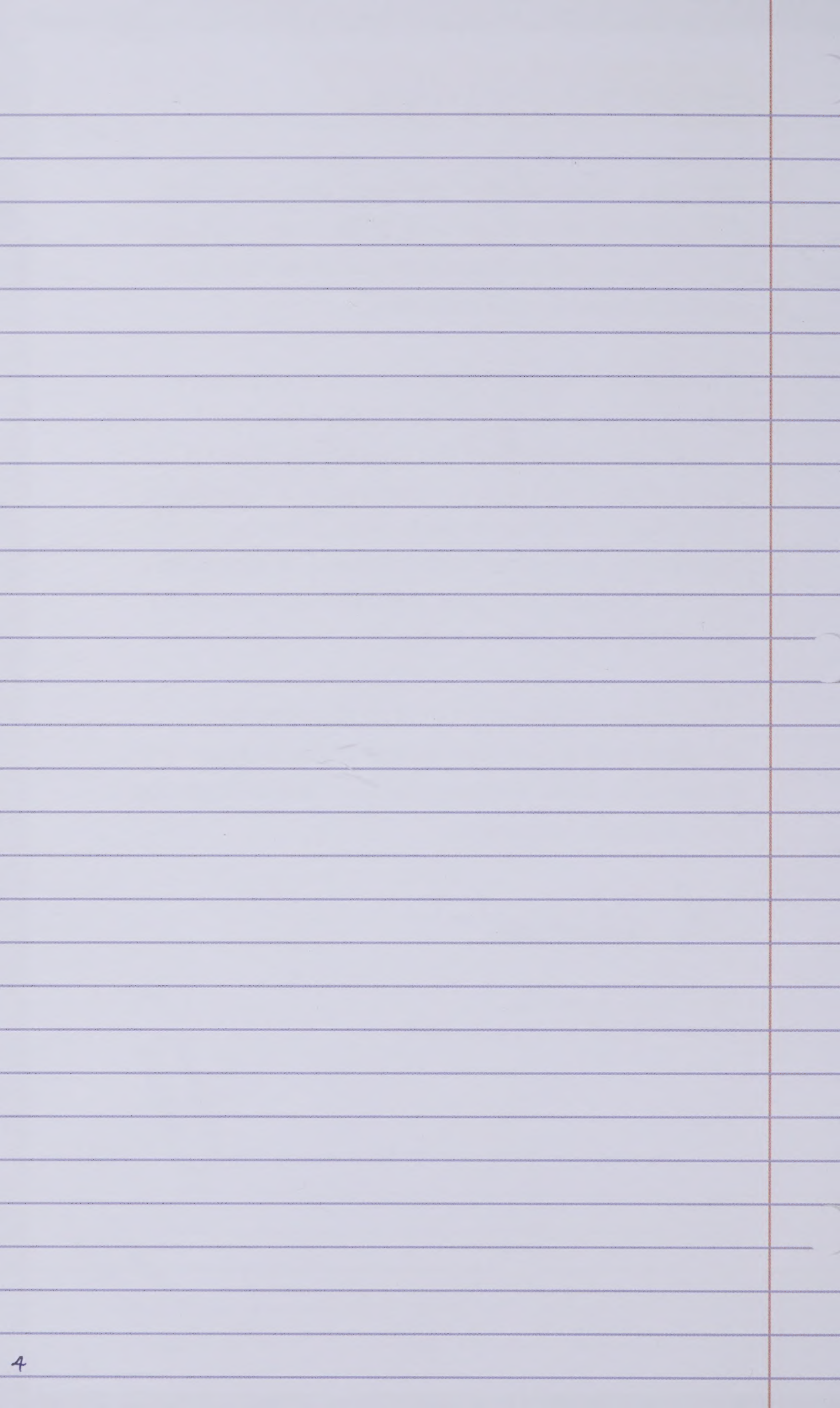
Through the support of our community partners: Priority Printing Limited, ACCESS, Canadian Learning Television, Via Rail and the Downtown Rotary Club of Edmonton as well as the commitment of Legislative Assembly staff, these students were given the opportunity to become well-informed, responsible citizens, and teachers were given the opportunity to truly bring their lessons to life.

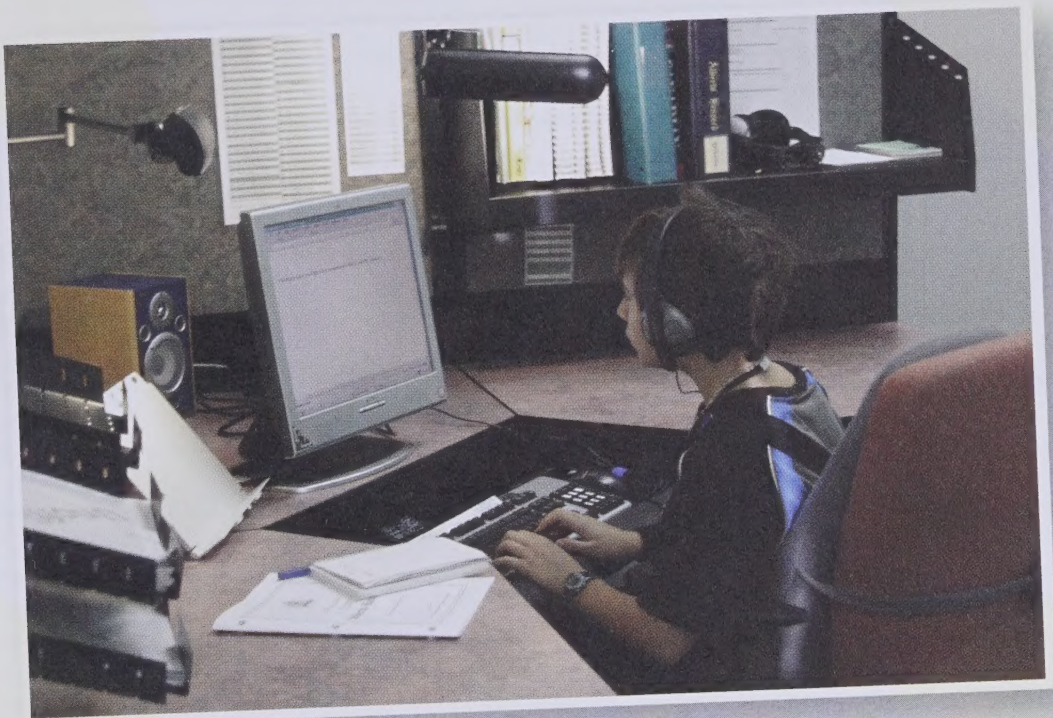
This report card is an account of the program's progress to date, but also tucked within its pages are testimonials from students, teachers and staff who have been engaged in learning.

Ken Kowlaski

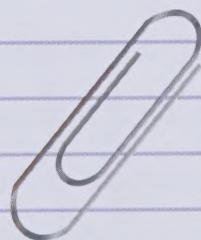
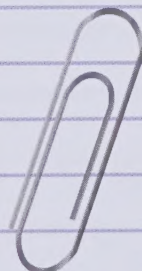
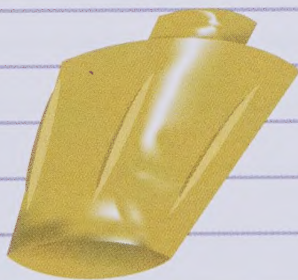
Hon. Ken Kowlaski
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly







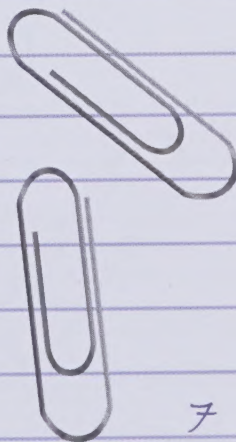
"Totally awesome! I learned that Hansard types every word said."

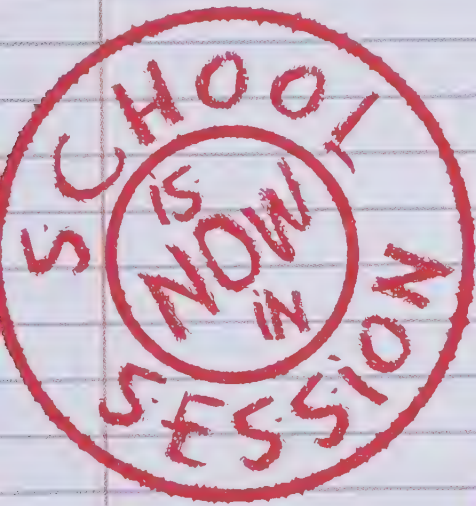


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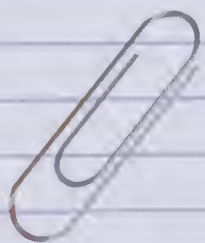
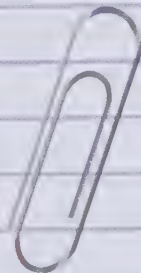
Program's Objectives

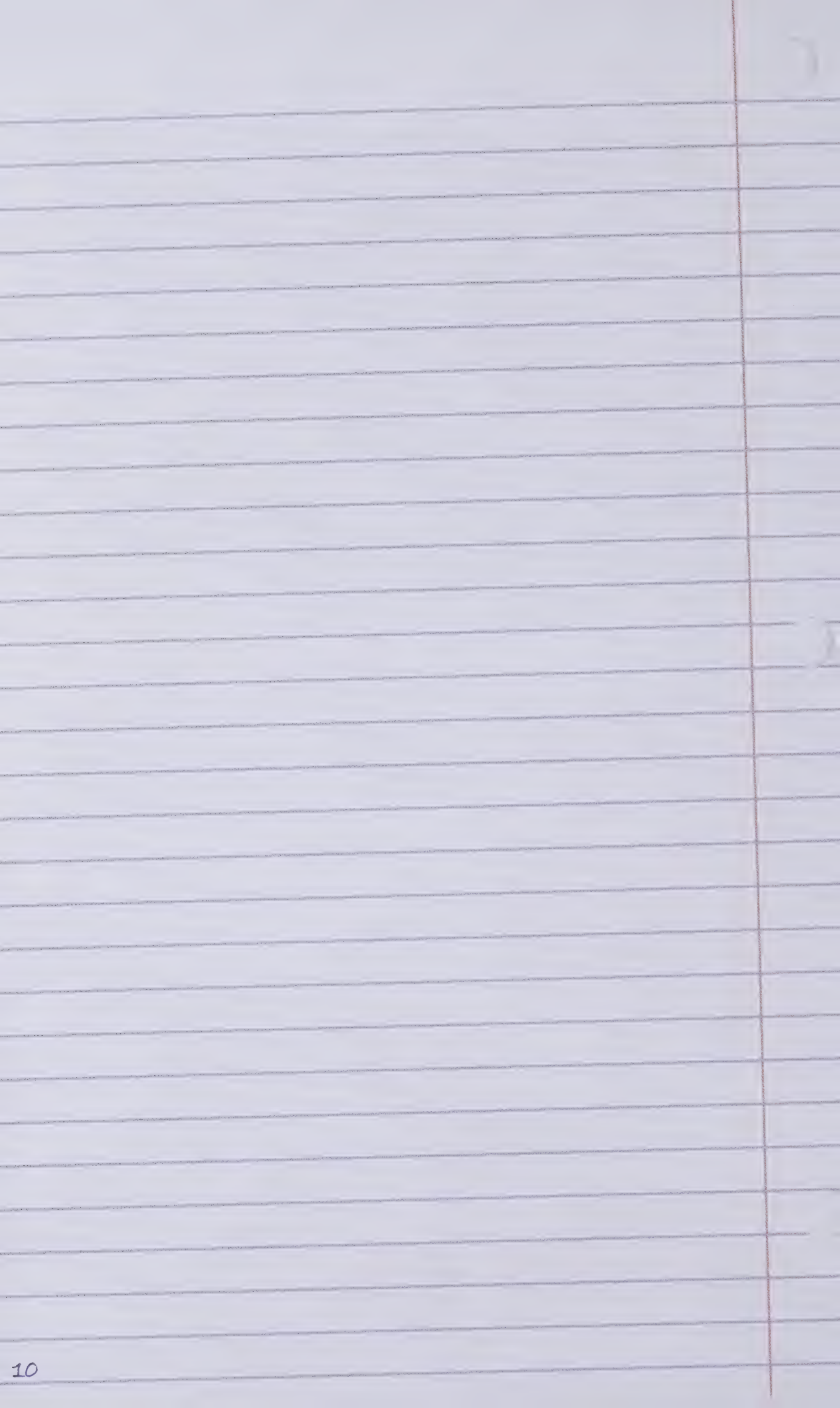
- ✓ To provide students with a memorable and fun-filled learning experience of Alberta's parliamentary democratic process.
- ✓ To facilitate interdisciplinary learning experiences at the Legislature that complement the Alberta curriculum.
- ✓ To convey to the educational community and the public that the Legislature and the parliamentary process belong to them.
- ✓ To provide MLAs and Legislature staff an opportunity to participate in the learning experience of children.





"Dressing up in different roles and re-enacting what happens in the Chamber was great!"





Year in Review

During the 2004-05 School-at-the-Legislature year, 32 classes with close to 800 Grade 6 students, 35 teachers and over 400 parent volunteers participated in the program. The Legislature community continues to embrace the program, volunteering their time for student interviews and group presentations. These interview and presentation sessions help educate students with an in-depth, hands-on experience of the parliamentary process. Both students and Legislative Assembly staff enjoy the connection and find the program a rewarding experience.

School-at-the-Legislature is made possible with the generous support of our community partners; Priority Printing Limited, ACCESS, Canadian Learning Television, Via Rail and the Downtown Rotary Club of Edmonton.

Priority Printing Limited donated in-kind sponsorship valued at over \$18,000 for school journals, brochures, banners and other print material. ACCESS and Canadian Learning Television donated over \$41,000 of promotional air time and funding dollars to assist four out-of-Edmonton schools to participate in the program. The Downtown Rotary Club of Edmonton generously sponsored two high needs schools in the Edmonton area to attend School-at-the-Legislature.

With support from these community partners the program continues to provide a unique learning experience for all.

SATL Enrollment

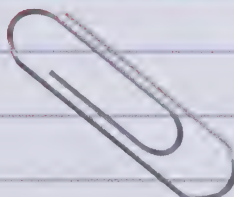
Tables 1 and 2 list schools and the number of participants enrolled in the program. Some schools participated with more than one class attending. There continues to be a positive growth of schools registering in the program.

Table 1: Program Participants

Program Years	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05
Classes	3	5	7	20	22	29	32
Students	74	123	195	502	619	714	780
Teachers	3	6	8	25	30	29	35
Volunteers	15	16	26	123	153	310	461

Table 2: Participating Schools for 2004/05

School	Class Numbers	Student Numbers	Area
St. Mary Elementary	2	57	Edmonton
Clara Tyner	1	25	Edmonton
Lynnwood	1	23	Edmonton
Patricial Heights	2	54	Edmonton
St. Justin	1	20	Edmonton
Greenfield	2	64	Edmonton
Erle River Middle	1	17	Milk River
Eleanor Hall	1	18	Clyde
Holyrood School	1	36	Edmonton
Our Lady of Victories	1	30	Edmonton
Lago Lindo	1	19	Edmonton
Kameyosek	1	32	Edmonton
Forest Heights	2	35	Edmonton
Meadowlark	1	30	Edmonton
Millwoods Christian	2	36	Edmonton
JF Dion	1	9	Sputinow
Keenoyshayo	2	35	St. Albert
St. Basil	1	33	Edmonton
Killam	1	13	Killam
Madonna	1	33	Sherwood Park
Meadow Middle	1	20	Airdrie
Uncas	1	31	Ardrossan
Rimbey	2	49	Rimbey
Duffield	1	29	Duffield
Mother Theresa	1	32	Edmonton
Total	32	780	



✓ Let's Talk

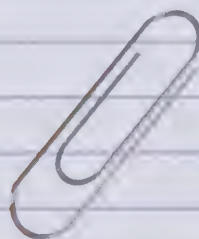
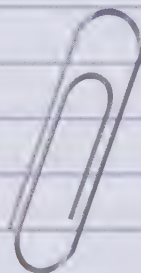
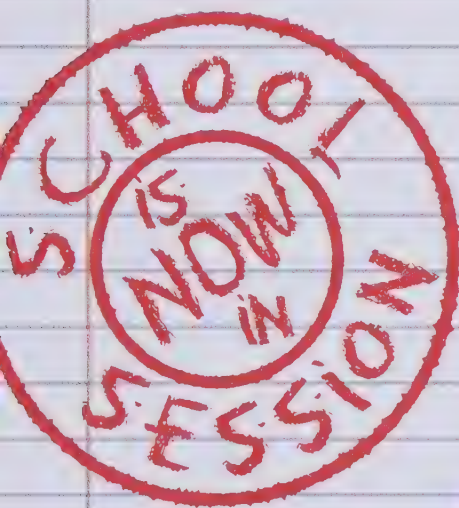
The Members and staff of the Assembly have been involved in the program since its inception and continue to share their knowledge and experience with students. Students book interviews with staff to learn about the specific roles and responsibilities of offices and departments that constitute the Legislative community.

In this 2004/05 school term students had an opportunity to job shadow, interview and participate in group presentations with the following offices:

- ✓ The Lieutenant Governor's Office
- ✓ The Speaker's Office
- ✓ The Premier's Office
- ✓ Government Members
- ✓ Liberal Opposition Members
- ✓ New Democrat Opposition Members
- ✓ The Clerk of the Assembly
- ✓ The Clerk Assistant/Director of House Services
- ✓ Clerk of Journals/Table Research
- ✓ Financial Management/Admin. Services
- ✓ Human Resource Services
- ✓ Information Technology Services
- ✓ Legislature Library
- ✓ Parliamentary Counsel
- ✓ Alberta *Hansard*
- ✓ Sergeant-at-Arms & Visitor Services
- ✓ Press Gallery
- ✓ Legislature Building and Pedway Security
- ✓ Department of Infrastructure
- ✓ Chief Electoral Officer
- ✓ Ombudsman Office
- ✓ Information & Privacy Commissioner
- ✓ Auditor General's Office
- ✓ Ethics Commissioner



"It was fun pretending to be newscasters in the media room."



(A+)

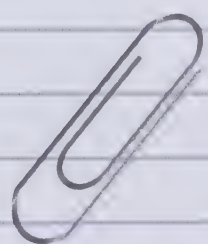
Getting the Word Out

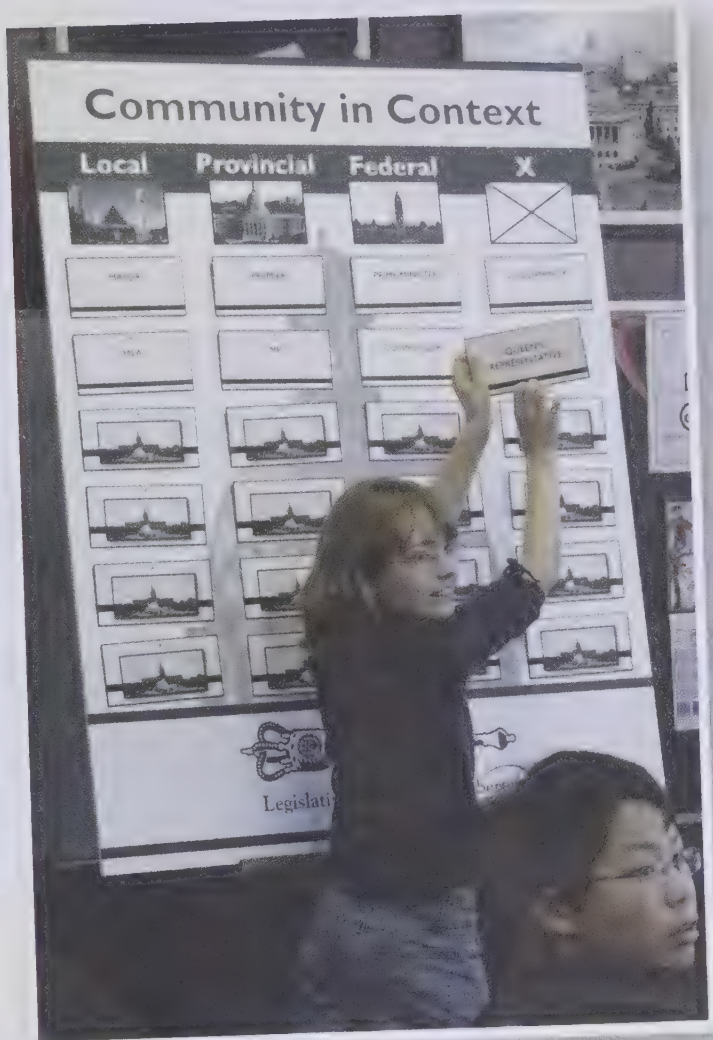
The Legislative Assembly, in cooperation with the community sponsors, promoted the program through mail-outs, teacher workshops, teacher conventions, advertisements and through the Legislative Assembly website. Advertisements were placed in the Edmonton Journal, rural community newspapers and the Alberta Teachers Association magazine and newsletter.

In August a two-day teachers' workshop was held. This workshop was designed to give teachers enrolled in the program an opportunity to develop a support network for sharing ideas and lesson plans. It also allowed teachers to acquaint themselves with the program, the scheduling process and the site layout.

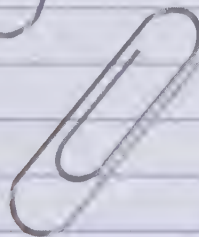
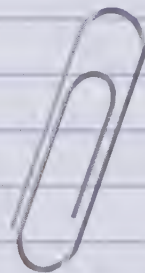
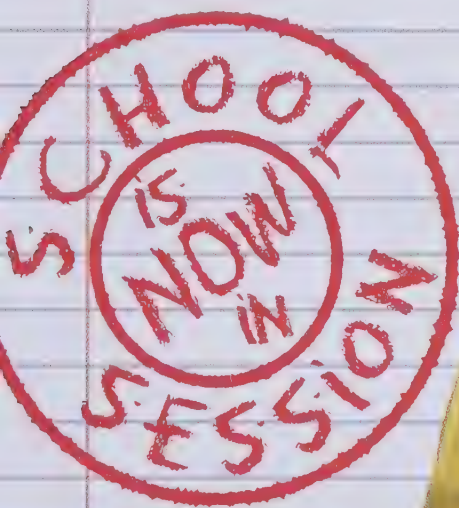
Monthly meetings held with Edmonton Inquiring Minds site coordinators from Museum School, Zoo School, Ice School and Fort Edmonton School helped to exchange ideas for future development and promotion of site-based schools. Site-based schools in-service sessions were held at School-at-the-Legislature and Petro Canada Zoo in March for teachers interested in these programs.

Attendance at the Northern Teachers Convention, Greater Edmonton Teachers Convention, Alberta Social Studies Teachers Convention and Central East Alberta Teachers Convention helped to provide teachers with information and promotional materials about the School-at-the-Legislature program.





"The games are fun!"



(A +)

Dollars and Cents

The School-at-the-Legislature Program is funded by its community partners, whose support has been instrumental to the success of the program. See Table 3 for an itemized list of program revenues and expenses.

Table 3: 2003-04 Program Budget

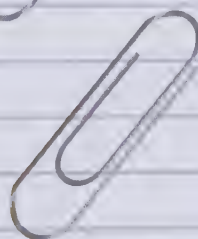
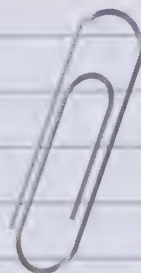
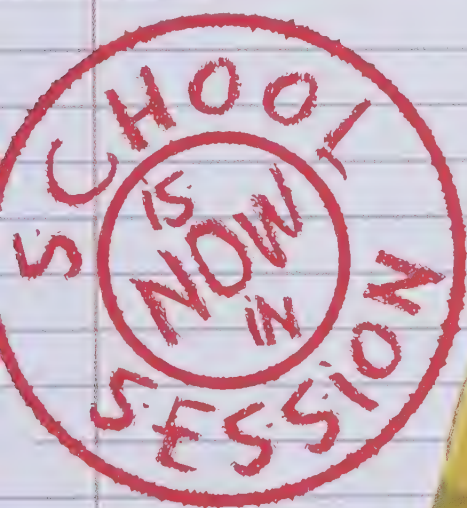
	2004/05 Projected	2004/05 Actual
Revenue		
Capital City Savings	\$25,000	\$25,000
Legislative Assembly of Alberta and Program fees	\$33,000	\$40,642
Total	\$58,000	\$65,642
Expenses		
Postage & Freight	\$1,000	\$1,162
Other Labour & Services	\$43,000	\$35,454
Travel	\$5,000	\$10,271
Hosting	\$1,000	\$149
Office Administration	\$1,000	\$13,795
Advertising	\$7,000	\$4,811
Total	\$58,000	\$65,642

✓ Notes:

- In-kind sponsorship of \$18,515 provided by Priority Printing Limited.
- In-kind sponsorship of \$41,050 provided by ACCESS & CLT.
- In-kind sponsorship of \$1,000 provided by Downtown Rotary Club.
- These figures cover Fiscal Year April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005.
- The School-at-the-Legislature program year is Sept 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005.
- Program Coordinator salary out of VS budget.



"We saw many monuments on the magnificent legislature grounds tour."



(A+)

Appendix A: Curriculum Connection

The School-at-the-Legislature program is closely connected to the Grade 6 curriculum. While Social Studies and Language Arts are the two most common curriculum links, the program also provides room for Math, Science, Physical Education and Art connections.

Along with an application form, teachers are asked to submit a lesson plan outlining how they will take advantage of the week on site and how their experience at the Legislature relates to classroom work throughout the year. Some of those ideas are included here.

✓ Social Studies

- Participating in a parliamentary debate.
- Studying the three levels of government.
- Learning how people take part in government, including the election process.
- Discovering how responsibilities and rights as a citizen begin at the local level.
- Creating a map of Alberta's 83 constituencies.
- Learning about the architecture of the Legislature Building.
- Comparing/contrasting how people in China and Canada meet their needs. Includes a Chinatown trip.
- Recognizing how Greece has affected western civilization through values, beliefs and ideas.

✓ English/Language Arts

- Writing in student journals.
- Taking notes during interviews.
- Writing newspaper articles.
- Preparing reports based on interviews.
- Creating a newsletter based on the week at the Legislature.
- Finding out how the media collects and distributes information.
- Presenting information by individuals, groups, or the class.

✓ Art

- Sketching the Legislature Building interior and exterior.
- Analyzing form in nature and in man-made objects.
- Creating newspaper collages.

✓ Science

- Taking nature walks on the grounds or conducting an environmental audit.
- Studying the river valley ecosystem.
- Identifying trees and vegetation on the Legislature Grounds.
- Studying air and flight characteristics.
- Learning how to gather and analyze evidence and how to investigate. This includes a trip to the Law Courts.

✓ Math

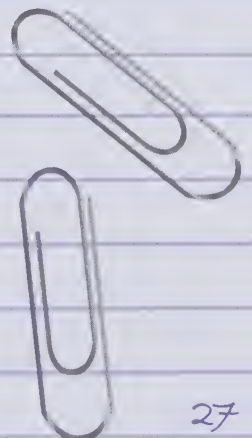
- Learning how the government collects and distributes tax dollars.
- Measuring and graphing sizes and shapes on the Legislature Grounds.
- Conducting a statistical analysis of budgets.

✓ Physical Education

- Completing the Health Walk Loops in the Legislature pedway.
- Taking a self-guided tour of the Legislature Grounds.
- Walking in the river valley.
- Ice skating on the Legislature Grounds in the winter.

✓ Life Careers

- Comparing how school habits relate to the world of work.
- Learning about different occupations.



Appendix B: Evaluation Summary

The response from students, teachers, parents, MLAs and Assembly staff regarding the program has been very positive.

The following comments are based on evaluations received from students and teachers throughout the program year. Following the comments are letters of support for the program.

✓ 1. What do you remember most from the week at the Alberta Legislature?

The three most common comments were:

“That Hansard types every word said.”

“Meeting Her Honour.” (former LG Lois Hole)

“Job Shadowing.”

✓ 2. What were the top three things that you learned that were new and interesting?

The comments depended on the interviews each student had. For the most part the focus was on learning about the roles of government and opposition, as well as the roles and responsibilities of MLAs and Assembly staff. A selection of comments follows.

“What MLAs do.”

“The History of the Legislature.”

“About democracy.”

3. What were the top two things that you didn't like?

Quite a few of the comments related that the length of stay at the site being too short. The two most common comments were:

"Climbing stairs."

"Missing Question Period."

4. Is there something that you would change?

A large number of students indicated that they would like to spend more time in the program. Some of their comments follow:

"Meet the Premier and have a class interview with the Lieutenant Governor."

"Have the Mock Legislature program in the Chamber."

"Go around the Legislature on our own without parents."

5. Was there something that you wish you could have done during the week?

While this question brought out a variety of responses, quite a few students mentioned they would like to have met the Premier. Other student responses are listed below.

"See a press conference."

"Spend more time drawing."

"Spend some time with our MLA."

✓ 6. Any other suggestions or comments?

Here students were given the opportunity to comment on any aspect of the program not covered in previous questions. Here are some of their comments.

“The Legislature was an awesome experience.”

“SATL rocks!”

“I’ll never forget it. I will remember this trip forever.”

Appendix C: Letters of Support

access media group

a television & multimedia learning company

November 15, 2005

The Honourable Ken Kowalski
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
325 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

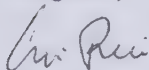
Dear Mr. Speaker:

ACCESS The Education Station is now in its second year of involvement with the School at the Legislature program. We have received many warm and wonderful comments from those who were able to attend because of our sponsorship. It truly is remarkable to see how students respond to the opportunity to learn about Alberta's Legislature and political system. It bodes well for the future of our province that so many young people can become enthusiastic about the workings of government.

The work of the SATL staff has also been exemplary. They have guided us through every step in our dealings with the schools, and have made our experience as sponsors a pleasurable one.

As we move forward, we hope to be able to continue the involvement of ACCESS, and of Canadian Learning Television, in this worthy program.

Regards,



Eric Rice

Manager

Creative/Production Services

cc Diana Panizzon, Visitor Services



Learning and Skills Television of Alberta Limited

3720 76 Avenue, Edmonton, AB, Canada T6B 2N9 • Tel 780.440.7777 • Fax 780.440.8899 • www.accesslearning.org



OFFICE OF THE ETHICS COMMISSIONER

Donald M Hamilton, Commissioner

November 2, 2005

Hon. Kenneth R. Kowalski
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
325 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I volunteered to participate in the School-at-the-Legislature Program on three occasions this year: March 8 and 15 for elementary students from Keenooshay School and on October 19 for elementary students from Bishop Savaryn School. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting all three groups and I hope that they benefited from our discussions.

I think that this program is very worthwhile and whole-heartedly support its continuation.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Hamilton
Ethics Commissioner

cc: Diana Panizzon



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ALBERTA

***Alberta Hansard* – HOUSE SERVICES**

1001 Legislature Annex
9718 - 107 Street
EDMONTON AB T5K 1E4
TELEPHONE: (780) 427-2490
FAX: (780) 427-1623

November 18, 2005

Hon. Kenneth R. Kowalski
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta
325 Legislature Building

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The *Alberta Hansard* branch of the House Services division has been pleased to have been a part of the School at the Legislature program since its inception and wishes to pledge its continuing support for this valuable learning resource.

This program provides visiting students with a real, hands-on opportunity to understand the functions and activities of the Legislative Assembly and of the offices that support the Speaker and members as they carry out their roles as elected representatives.

At the *Hansard* office, for instance, students are given a production overview and then are seated at desks and given the opportunity to listen to some of the recorded proceedings and to transcribe the audio, after which they receive instruction and practice on how to search the transcripts on the web. Students leave with the knowledge that all the proceedings in the Legislative Assembly Chamber are recorded and transcribed for posterity and that as members of the public they can easily access and search these transcripts.

Staff members involved in shepherding students through the *Hansard* office greatly enjoy the opportunity to interact with them as well as to demonstrate the technology and skills involved in producing the permanent record of the debates of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Sim'.

Liz Sim
Managing Editor
Alberta Hansard – House Services



LEGISLATURE LIBRARY
216 LEGISLATURE BUILDING
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EDMONTON, ALBERTA
T5K 2B6
Telephone: (780) 427-2473 FAX: (780) 427-6016
E-MAIL: library@assembly.ab.ca

November 28, 2005

The Honourable Kenneth Kowalski, M.L.A.
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta
Office of the Speaker
325 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Speaker:

For many years, our Library staff have enjoyed contributing to the School at the Legislature program. Our librarians participate in the program by conducting tours of the Library, by explaining the technologies utilized by Library staff, and by being interviewed by the students. During these orientation sessions, librarians describe the Legislature Library's role in providing information to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and their staff.

We recognize the importance to and the impact on the students of this type of firsthand exposure to the democratic process. We in turn benefit from meeting the students and teachers who are participating in the program. Accordingly, we are thankful to the sponsors whose ongoing support of the School at the Legislature program provides an opportunity that is beneficial for all involved.

Yours sincerely,

Valerie Footz
Manager, Library Operations

Cc: Brian Hodgson, Sergeant-at-Arms
Diana Panizon, Program Administrator, Visitor Services

October 25, 2005

Honourable Ken Kowalski
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Room 325 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Speaker:

It is with great pleasure that I offer Priority Printing's continued support for the 2005 - 2006 School-at-the-Legislature program presented by the Legislative Assembly Office.

Priority Printing stongly believes in the well worn phrase "Our children are our future". And to that, we are proud to say that this will be Priority Printing's third year as a community partner in the School-at-the-Legislature program.

As you know, we have had the pleasure of sitting in on a parliamentary debate early in 2005. Watching a grade six class during the session, it was obvious the experience was not only exciting for them but also a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in the traditional classroom atmosphere. It was wonderful to watch their faces experiencing history and democracy first hand.

Diana and the whole Visitor Services team have been wonderful to work with over the years. Diana has kept Priority Printing well informed of the progress of the program and of upcoming events including newspaper advertisements thanking the corporate sponsors.

Sincerely,



Tim Downey
President

cc: Diana Panizzon





FROM: **Scott Ellis**
Director and Senior Financial Officer
Financial Management and Administrative Services
901 Legislature Annex

Date: December 5, 2005

Telephone: 427-1359

TO: **The Honourable Ken Kowalski**
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
325 Legislature Building

RE: **School-at-the-Legislature Program**

On behalf of the FMAS branch, I would like to offer our support for the School-at-the-Legislature program. This past year, the FMAS management team has met students from across the province. We have found them to be keen, curious, and candid. Participants pose insightful questions and demonstrate interest in the Province, the Legislature, the democratic process, and the operations of the Legislative Assembly Office. Whether meeting a small group or presenting to a whole class, we are always kept on our toes when asked to share information and experience about our work.

It is gratifying to participate in this program with colleagues from the Legislative Assembly Office and our Legislature partners, such as the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, Office of the Premier, Alberta Infrastructure, and Alberta Solicitor General. Students enthusiastically relate what they have experienced during the week when asked. I hope that their experience with our branch gives them positive exposure to a professional administrative and financial office environment and an appreciation for public service that they can carry into the future as they proceed with their studies and when they consider a career path in the future.

Thanks to you and our community partners for championing this program. It has provided us in the FMAS branch with an opportunity to share our experience and enthusiasm for our work and the Legislative Assembly with others as well as sharing in the youthful enthusiasm and inquisitiveness of the visiting students. We look forward to continued participation in 2006.

- c. Diana Panizzon, Program Administrator, VCSS
Jacqueline Breault, Manager, Corporate Services
Dan Dunlop, Manager, Administrative Services, FMAS
Darren Joy, Manager, Financial Services, FMAS

ROTARY CLUB OF EDMONTON



The Honourable Ken Kowalski
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
325 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Speaker,

RE: School-at-the Legislature Program

As President of the Rotary Club of Edmonton, I am writing to express our Club's support for the School- at- the- Legislature program. Our Youth Services Committee, chaired by Rotarian Bill Stephens, has been very pleased with the opportunity to participate in this unique and educational program and have been excited by the results

Our Youth Services Committee is charged with the responsibility of reviewing and approving club financial support of programs or events in support of youth. As you can imagine, we have many requests for funding through out the year and the decisions for funding are often difficult. We have a number of principles to guide our decisions, and programs that will reach a broad number of children or students such as the School-at-the-Legislature program is something we value. We also look for programs that will or can involve inner city children as we also have a strong focus on supporting inner city or at -risk youth. We were pleased to learn of your unique program which targets grade six students, and have directed our funding to help inner city elementary schools participate.

We sponsored two grade six classes in 2004 and have increased our support so that four grade six classes can participate this year. Rotarian Jack Clements, one of our committee members who has been directly involved, has been very pleased with the support and follow up actions of your Program Administrator, Diana Panizzon in coordinating our involvement.

We are confident that students enjoy the change from routine classroom learning and return to their classrooms, refreshed, with increased desire to learn. The direct knowledge and understanding of the democratic process that this program provides cannot be underestimated and is a foundational element of their learning.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to be involved in this extraordinary program and wish you continued success in delivery of the School-at-the-Legislature program.

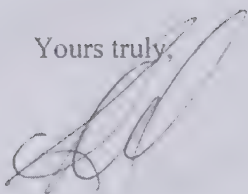
Rotary Club of Edmonton

c/o The Westin Edmonton

10135 - 100 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 0N7

Business: (780) 429-3256 Fax (780) 426-4355 E-Mail: edrotary@telus.net Web: <http://edrotary.com>

Yours truly,



Russ Mann
President

CC: Bill Stephens, Chair Youth Services
CC: Diana Panizzon, Program Administrator

Rotary Club of Edmonton

c/o The Westin Edmonton

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Business: (780) 429-3256 Fax (780) 426-4355 E-Mail: edrotary@telus.net Web: <http://edrotary.com>



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Office of the Ombudsman

December 6, 2005

THE HONOURABLE KEN KOWALSKI
SPEAKER
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA
10800 97 AVE NW RM 325
EDMONTON AB T5K 2B6

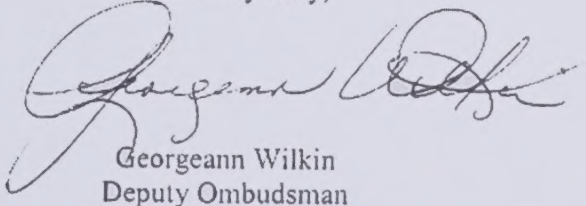
Dear Honourable Mr. Kowalski:

Re: Students-At-The-Legislature Program (SATL)

This letter is a letter of support for the Students-At-The-Legislature Program. Staff from the Office of the Ombudsman have enjoyed the opportunity to speak with students when they attend this Program and share information about our legislative office and the principles of administrative fairness. We have noticed that students come to the Program well prepared by their teachers. They ask appropriate questions and are attentive to the information provided.

I hope this Program continues as I believe that it is one of the mechanisms that will contribute to the children of Alberta becoming well-informed citizens in the future.

Yours very truly,



Georgeann Wilkin
Deputy Ombudsman

/ls

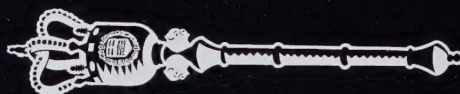
cc: Diana Pannizon, Program Administrator – Visitor Services
Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms

2, 4, 6, 8... who do we appreciate?

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